Public libraries and e-content in Greece:problems and prospects

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EU Targets

- All schools linked to the internet by 2002
- All teachers competent in information society skills
- All workers have the opportunity to achieve the key new skill of information
- Flexible frameworks for teleworking and to meet the needs of business/employees
- Equipment to improve the employability of people with disabilities
- Citizen friendly internet sites with information on civil rights and public services
- Establishing public internet access points, plus on-site information society literacy training in all communities e.g. libraries, post offices etc.

Future Trends

- More competitive information environment
- Evolution from print-electronic to electronic-print collections
- Focus on user needs than to collections
- Network based infrastructure
- On-going staff training
- Building redesign
- New funding models

New roles for Public Libraries

- Introduce new information technologies to the community
- Demonstrate applications and uses of networking for education, life long learning, economic development, telemedicine and a range of other applications
- Be a local access point for a range of government information resources and services
- Create, maintain and organize electronic community information
- Equalize access such all members of local community can realize the benefits from "being connected" to the global networked environment
- Provide training to community residents on how to use the Internet and interact successfully with a range of services provided via the net
- Expand the range and types of resources and services provided from public library web sites

Pulman : Social Guidelines http://www.pulmanweb.org

- 1. Digital literacy
- 2. Social inclusion
- 3. Lifelong learning
- 4. Support for formal education, at all levels, including distance learning
- 5. Support for business and the economy
- 6. Citizen participation in new forms of civic governance
- 7. Access to diverse cultural content
- 8. Access to music and non-print material
- The public interest in access to copyright protected materials and related licensing initiatives; business models for right transactions

Pulman : Technical Guidelines

- 1. Resource description, discovery and retrieval
- 2. Digitization
- 3. Multimedia digital service delivery
- 4. Applications of newly developing technologies: mobile, cable/digital TV, Web TV
- 5. Technical responses to multi-lingual issues
- 6. Handling of legal issues (e.g. privacy, data protection, IRP)

PSInet : Objectives

- Provide a clear and extensive definition of what is meant by the term Public Sector Information (PSI), building on those offered by the Green Paper
- Classify and describe PSI, establishing a useful and usable typology of public sector information, incorporating factors such as:

Policy, legislation and approach Subject domain Metadata and identifies used Method of data collection

- Identify countries and important domains where PSI is not available or easily accessible
- Clarify issues that define best practice and identify examples of good practice in collection, access and exploitation of PSI.
- Provide an assessment of gaps, developments required, barriers and problems and make recommendations for further RTD activity.

STATISTICAL DATA

Veria Central Public Library

- Members : 15.000
- Collection : 80.000
- Loans: 240.000 every year
- 22 computers 8 for the public
- 300 hits to our website per week

- 1. The content of the services which derived from a well planned feasibility study
 - Direct access tools and services for users
 - User training sessions
- 2. The quality and diversity of the partners which formed the regional consortium
 - Imathia Prefecture/Veria Central Public Library
 - Imathia Chamber of Commerce
 - Office of Industrial Development
 - Trade Union Labor Institute
 - Municipal library of a small town
- 3.3. The reliability and efficiency of the technical infrastructure which was developed for the purposes of the project
- 4. The framework for performance measurements which was agreed to be used within the project
 - monitoring visits
 - a baseline user questionnaire
 - Diaries leading to statistical information
 - Case studies
 - Focus groups
 - A final questionnaire

New Services in an electronic environment

1. Direct access tools and services for users

- Public access to the internet at library workstations
- Networked cd-rom provision
- Public email access
- Office automation workstations
- Online citizen information provision
- Image processing
- Video conferencing

New Services in an electronic environment

2.User training sessions

- Computer awareness sessions
- Internet awareness sessions
- Office packages awareness sessions
- E-mail awareness sessions
- Open and independent awareness sessions
- European computer driving license (ECDL)
- Website design for local businesses and organizations
- Image processing training and awareness

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 Ranked among the public libraries in the U.S. (serving populations of 100,000 to 250,000) for three years running! Ranked <u>6th in 1998</u>, <u>2nd in 1999</u> and <u>5th in 2000</u>.

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- Founded 112 years ago in South Bend, Indiana 1888.
- One of the first public libraries in Indiana to have an online catalog 1983.
- Ranked 8th by Places Rated in # of new books added yearly per 1,000 residents 1993.

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